



**To:** Senator Joan Hartley, Higher Education Chair  
Representative Roberta Willis, Higher Education Chair  
Senator Dan Debicella, Higher Education and Commerce Ranking  
Representative Marilyn Guiliano, Higher Education Ranking  
Senator Gary LeBeau, Commerce Chair  
Representative Jeffery Berger, Commerce Chair  
Representative John Stripp, Ranking Commerce  
Members of the Higher Education and Employment Advancement  
Committee and the Commerce Committee

**From:** Marc S. Herzog, Chancellor

**Re:** Public Hearing Testimony Regarding:  
*HB 5509, An Act Concerning The Development Of A Film Industry Curriculum*  
*HB 5510, An Act Creating A Skilled Workforce For Connecticut's Film Industry*  
*HB 5585, An Act Concerning Digital And Film Media*

**Date:** February 26, 2008

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on behalf of the Connecticut Community College System in support of the establishment of a film industry workforce training program in Connecticut.

The Connecticut Community College System is responsible for significant education and training in a number of arts-related areas, including Digital Media, Communications Media, Associate in Arts and Theatre Arts; Graphics Design; Communication; Broadcast Communications; Digital Arts/Multi Media; Television Production and Media Studies; and Visual and Performing Arts.

We appreciate the opportunity to work with the Hollywood East Task Force and the Connecticut State Legislature to further support and encourage appropriate education and training for the growing film industry in the state. The Connecticut Community College System is ready at this time to support the education and training of a workforce for the film industry, and our system already has in place a significant number of the programs and courses identified in the raised bills.

Please find attached a copy of the information submitted to the Hollywood East Task Force Committee in January 2008. The document outlines and summarizes the current involvement and offerings of the Community College System related to the film industry including opportunities, potential enhancements to the offerings, as well as challenges for the future.

In closing, please note what appears to be drafting error in HB 5509. Line 61 and 62 refer to the "Connecticut College of Technology." It should read the Connecticut "Community College System."

**Hollywood East Task Force Committee - CT Community College System Initiatives**  
**Working Group Roundtable: Thursday, January 24 @ 11 AM, Legislative Office Building, Room #2C**

<b>Community College</b>	<b>Opportunities</b>
<p><b>Capital Community College</b></p> <p><b>Key Contact: Michael J. Bies, Acting director, Academic Media Technology</b></p>	<p><u>Opportunity:</u> CCC currently offers an Associate's degree in Communication Media. The program provides students with a foundation of education and experience in the areas of broadcast television production, post-production video editing, photography, visual and oral communication, and film and media studies. Currently offering 12 Communication courses.</p> <p><u>Enhancements:</u> The Internship course could provide an opportunity to place students on a film production crew for practical experience in the industry.</p> <p><u>Challenges:</u> Need to assist coordination of efforts with a traditional teaching department with available staff.</p>
<p><b>Housatonic Community College</b></p> <p><b>Key Contact: Elizabeth Roop, Academic Dean, and Professor Geoffrey Sheehan</b></p>	<p><u>Opportunity:</u> HCC currently offers an Associate in Arts in Theater Arts degree, state-of-the-art equipment which will allow students to learn and practice the essential skills for the set up, operation, and strike of a professional film environment.</p> <p><u>Challenges:</u> With the addition of one full-time faculty position of Technical Director/Instructor in Film and Theater Technology, the college can support both credit and non-credit programming to satisfy current and future film industry needs. This position will also allow HCC to extend these resources in support of local community activities, as well as regional and CCC System collaborations.</p> <p><u>Opportunity:</u> General HCC offers degrees and certificates in Graphic Design and Computer Graphics for Digital Media training including the installation in Fall 2007 of a new, state-of-the-art Macintosh Lab.</p> <p><u>Challenges:</u> 1) Need to find out the specific jobs for film industry education and training; 2) One concern is sustaining the financial investment in the program, including providing salaries for faculty and future industry technology needs.</p>
<p><b>Manchester Community College</b></p> <p><b>Key Contact: Bob Kagan</b></p>	<p><u>Opportunity:</u> MCC offers an Associate's degree in Communication that features a variety of courses in video production. Courses include digital filmmaking, computer graphics, TV studio production, non-linear editing and computer animation. MCC has a state-of-the-art television studio that is completely digital and a 24-station Macintosh lab featuring Final Cut Pro.</p>

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Community College	Opportunities
<p><b>Quinebaug Valley Community College</b>  <b>Key Contact: Mark S. Szantyr,</b>  <b>Associate Professor of Fine Arts,</b>  <b>Program Coordinator for Fine Arts</b></p>	<p><u>Opportunities:</u> Quinebaug Valley Community College offers an Associate's degree in Fine Arts with three options: Studio Art, Graphic Arts, and Photography. QVCC offers a Certificate in each area as well. QVCC's Graphic Arts degree and Photography degree are designed to incorporate video and video editing, three-dimensional computer-based modeling. The College offers degrees in Engineering Science, Computer-Aided Design, Construction Technology, and Plastics, all of which can be complementary to the Art Department. There is great collaboration between degree areas. Likewise, with QVCC's Business Program, a Fine Arts Entrepreneurship Certificate is offered that engages members of both the business community and the arts community. QVCC is working with the Connecticut Commission on Culture and Tourism to establish the college as a local arm of the commission. QVCC is working with local and regional arts commissions to create an inventory of the creative workplace which it can support and market.</p> <p><u>Enhancements:</u> Future plans with Plainfield High School include offering students an educational / employment pathway in Video and TV editing as well as Computer-Aided Design and other digital arts applications. Students will work toward gaining college credit while in high school. Their education will continue at QVCC and students may take advantage of internship opportunities once they are at the College. The College is developing a collaborative work space in which students can explore all aspects, including technical, of contemporary fine, graphic, digital, and performance art.</p> <p><u>Challenges:</u> Quinebaug Valley Community College is facilities-challenged. Space is at a premium. We are looking for opportunities in the local community to expand our classrooms. We are working on expanding our offerings to include more film and media- based creative programs and enhancing our offerings in the area of theater arts.</p>